

VI.—*Descriptions of new Reptilia and Amphibia from Persia and Baluchistán.* By W. T. BLANFORD, F.R.S.\*

LACERTILIA.

Family Lacertidæ.

9. *Lacerta princeps.*

*L. magna*, fere sesquipedalis, dentibus palatalibus prædita; scutis postnasalibus utrinque binis, præfrontali unico, verticalis marginibus lateralibus parallelis, anteriore posterioreque in medio prominentibus; squamis temporalibus polygonalibus, antice majoribus; collari libero, denticulato; squamis dorsalibus rhomboideis, carinatis, in series transversas ordinatis, ventralibus in series 10 longitudinales, extremas valde angustiores, dispositis; poris femoralibus utrinque 14: supra griseo-olivacea, subtus albida, maculis 4-5 cæruleis, nigro marginatis, longitudinaliter ordinatis, utrinque post axillam ornata.

*Hab.* in Persia meridionali.

Only a single specimen obtained. The form of the back-scales resembles that in the small species *Lacerta Fitzingeri* and its allies (*Notopholis*, Gray, nec Wagler).

10. *Eremias persica.*

*E. major*, cauda elongata, corporis longitudinem dimidio vel plus quam dimidio excedente, membris longioribus quam in peraffini *E. arguta* Pall., pede anteriore ad rostrum attingente, posteriore ultra humerum; scuto infraoculari ad labrum pertinente; supra-labialibus cæteris 5-7 antice, 3-4 postice; squamis caudalibus caudæ basin versus haud carinatis: supra grisescenti-castanea, nigro sparsim maculata, fascia lata nigra vel nigrescente, interdum albo maculata vel interrupta utrinque ad latus ornata; dorso in ætate juniore albo nigroque longitudinaliter fasciato, lateribus membrisque superne nigris, albo maculatis: cæterum *E. argutæ* *E. velocique* Pall. similis.

*Hab.* frequens in omnibus fere planitiebus Persicis, quæ altitudinem pedum 3000 supra mare superant.

A fine species, distinguished from *E. arguta*, Pall. (= *E. variabilis*), by its longer tail and limbs, and by the infraocular shield extending to the lip. From *E. velox*, Pall., it may be recognized by the caudal scales not being keeled. It is a larger form than either, growing to a length of between 9 and 10 inches, and somewhat differently coloured.

\* Continued from vol. xiii. p. 455.

11. *Eremias fasciata*.

*E. sexpollicaris*, gracilis, elongata, cauda corporis longitudinem duplam æquante vel superante; collari libero, recto; squamis dorsalibus parvis, rotundatis, convexis; caudalibus superioribus carinatis, ventralibus in series transversas 32-35, singulas in medio abdomine e 14-16 scutis oblique nec longitudinaliter ordinatis compositas; præanali uno, sæpe (haud semper) majore; poris femoralibus utrinque 16-19; scuto præfrontali unico, a rostrali supranasalibus, et a verticali postfrontalibus longe discreto; supraciliaribus duobus æqualibus granulis fere vel omnino circumdatis; interoccipitali posteriore nullo; infraorbitali ad labrum pertinente; dentibus palatalibus nullis: supra albida vel fulvescenti-grisea, fusco longitudinaliter fasciata, membris superne fuscis, albo maculatis.

*Hab.* in Persia meridionali, haud procul ab urbe Karman et in Gedrosia haud frequens.

Distinguished from young examples of *E. persica* by its more elongate form, duller colours, by the superciliary shields as a rule being surrounded by granules, and by the entire absence of palatal teeth.

## MESALINA, Gray.

The principal character given by Gray for the distinction of this genus from *Eremias*, the presence of a large præanal shield, is variable in individuals. A better distinction is the form of the ventral shields: they are more numerous and arranged in oblique rows in *Eremias*, less numerous and arranged in longitudinal series in *Mesalina*.

12. *Mesalina brevirostris*.

*M.* ab *M. pardali* scutis ventralibus in 12 series longitudinales nec 10 ordinatis, capite brevioribus minusque depresso distinguenda.

*Hab.* in insula Tumb dicta sinus Persici, et ad Kalabagh in regione Punjab Indiæ.

13. *Mesalina pardaloides*.

*M.* peraffinis *M. pardali*, sed scutis ventralibus in series longitudinales duntaxat 8 (nec 10) ordinatis, serie extrema utrinque e scutis multo angustioribus composita.

*Hab.* in insula Henjam seu Angam dicta in sinu Persico.

Both the above are small lizards, closely allied to *Mesalina pardalis*.

14. *Acanthodactylus micropholis*.

*A.* squamis dorsalibus carinatis, parvis, antice et ad latera minimis; scutis ventralibus in series longitudinales 10, extremis angustioribus ordinatis; poris femoralibus utrinque circiter 25; digitis breviter fimbriatis; scuto infraorbitali plerumque ad labrum pertinente: superne griseus vel fuscus, longitudinaliter albo striatus, membris albo maculatis: cæterum *A. Cantoris* similis.

*Hab.* in Gedrosia (Baluchistán).

This is distinguished from *A. Cantoris* and, à fortiori, from *A. Boskianus* by its much smaller scales on the back, by the granular scales, resembling those of an *Eremias*, on the back of the neck, by the infraorbital shield resting on two supralabials instead of three or four and generally reaching the lip, by being always striped even in old specimens, &c. Several specimens were procured.

## Family Scincidæ.

15. *Ablepharus pusillus*.

*A.* parvus gracilis, cauda corporis longitudinem fere duplam æquante; scuto rostrali medioeri, nasalibus postfrontalibusque discretis, supraciliaribus tribus anteriore maximo, præoccipitali (seu frontoparietali) unico, interoccipitali medioeri; palpebris omnino absentibus, annulo circumorbitali e squamis parvulis composito; meatu auditorio parvo, haud denticulato; squamis 20 circum medium corpus, circiter 26 inter axillam et inguinem.

*Hab.* ad Basrah, ad ripas fluminis Shat el Arab (Tigridis cum Euphrate juncti).

Two specimens obtained. It differs from *Ablepharus Brandti*, Strauch (? *A. agilis*, Stoliczka), in the smaller number of scales between the axils, which are fifty in that species.

## ZYGNOPSIS, gen. nov.

Genus affine *Ophiomori*, naribus inter duo scuta, alium supra, alium infra, supranasalibus contiguis, sed membris quatuor debilibus præditum.

16. *Zygnopsis brevipes*.

*Z.* corpore elongato, pedibus brevibus, anticis digitis 4, posticis 3 instructis, capite conico, rostro rotundato; scuto verticali magno, postice latiore, ad latera emarginato; occipitali magno, margine anteriore concava, postica valde convexa; præoccipitalibus nullis; postoccipitalibus minoribus, oblique elongatis; oculis parvis, palpe-

bris inferioribus transparentibus, meatu auditorio externo nullo; squamis corporis lævibus, in series longitudinales 22 ad medium corpus dispositis: grisea, longitudinaliter fusco fasciata.

*Hab.* haud procul a Karman in Persia meridionali.

A single specimen only was procured of this remarkable new form.

## OPHIDIA.

### 17. *Typhlops persicus*.

*T.* purpurascenti-brunneus, fere unicolor, subtus vix pallidior, antice parum attenuatus; scuto rostrali mediocri, subtus parum angustiore, fronto-nasale latitudine haud æquante, nasali cum fronto-nasali supra narem juncto, præoculari antice valde convexo, oculare longitudine subæquante, fronto-nasalibus post nasale approximatis, præfrontali, frontali, interparietali, supraocularibus parietalibusque subæqualibus squamas dorsales latitudine paullo excedentibus; squamis corporis in 22-24 series longitudinales atque 376-390 transversas dispositis; cauda brevi, mucronata, 9 seriebus squamarum circumdata.

*Hab.* in Persia meridionali.

Distinguished from *T. vermicularis*, Merrem, and *T. syriacus*, Jan, by its uniformly coloured scales, and from the former by the division between the nasal and fronto-nasal shields not extending above the nostril, by the head being longer in proportion to its breadth, and by the rostral shield being broader in proportion both above and below. In *T. vermicularis* the fronto-nasal is narrower than the rostral; in *T. persicus* the reverse is the case.

### 18. *Dipsas rhinopoma*.

*D.* capite brevi, depresso; squamis corporis imbricatis in 23 (24) seriebus longitudinalibus, serie media vix majore; naribus valvulis instructis; scutis supralabialibus 8-10, quarto quintoque oculum tangentibus; verticali brevi, vix longiore quam lato, subtriangulari; præocularibus duobus, superiore ad verticale, inferiore ad nasale attingente; loreali distincto nullo; scutis ventralibus 268-274, anali haud bifido; subcaudalibus 76-77: pallide griseo-fusca, transversim albido fasciata, squamis nigro punctulatis.

*Hab.* in Carmania.

Two specimens obtained: the largest measures 47.5 inches, of which the tail is 6.75. In one of the specimens the anal shield is cleft, evidently by accident, the integument beneath being also divided.

## AMPHIBIA.

19. *Bufo olivaceus*.

*B. affinis B. viridi B. vulgarique*, ab ambobus glandulis parotoideis majoribus, valde latioribus, ovalibus, distinguendus; dorso subglabro; supra pallide olivaceus, subtus albescens.

*Hab.* in Gedrosia.

Four specimens taken.

Fuller descriptions and figures will be given in a forthcoming work on the natural history of Persia.

VII.—*Description of a new Species of Skink.* By A. W. E. O'SHAUGHNESSY, Assistant in the Natural History Department of the British Museum.

*Cophoscincus obscurus*, sp. n.

Body tetragonal; tail thick, round. Internasal very large, covering the upper surface of the snout, concave posteriorly. Frontal narrow, triangular, rounded anteriorly; fronto-parietals separated; supraorbitals five, the fifth very small; frenal rather large, almost quadrangular, with the front upper angle pointed. Supralabials six; infralabials four, narrow and long. Ear-opening none. Lower eyelid not transparent. Fifty-two scales in a longitudinal dorsal series, fifty in a ventral one; twenty-two scales in a series round the body; those on the back larger. Number of scales between fore and hind limbs about thirty-four. Preanal scales larger. Limbs small, toes short.

Colour brown, with rows of black dots along the dorsal series of scales, and a dark streak from the eye along the upper lateral margin of the body to the tail.

This species evidently resembles closely the *Lygosoma scutirostrum*, Peters (Monatsber. Akad. Berl. 1873, p. 743), but differs in the number of scales between the fore and hind limbs, and in having no external ear.

Queensland. One specimen in the British Museum.